# BEWARE OF FORECLOSURE SCAMS

Homeowners facing foreclosure are often targeted by scammers with offers to "save" their home. These scam artists get homeowners' money, but fail to provide any real assistance. Delaware law regulates foreclosure "rescuers" by requiring that:

- Contracts be in writing and provide notice of cancellation rights.
- Contracts be provided to homeowners at least 24 hours before signature.
- No money be collected until ALL services are performed as promised.

Report foreclosure scams to the Attorney General's Office at 1-800-220-5424



Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden, III

# Delaware

# Foreclosure Mediation Program



In danger of losing your home to foreclosure? Free help is available!

Contact the Attorney General's

Office to learn how you may be able
to save your home.

1-800-220-5424

www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov mortgage.mediation@state.de.us

# Delaware's free foreclosure mediation program is available to homeowners who:

- 1. Have taken out a mortgage on a one- to four-unit home in Delaware.
- 2. Use that home as their primary residence.
- 3. Have had their mortgage foreclosed upon on or after January 19, 2012.

# **Getting started**:

- 1. Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor and complete a Certificate of Participation Form (see list of housing counselors on the next page).
- 2. Watch for scheduling notices and other important information in the mail.

#### Act now!

Starting the mediation process as soon as possible after you receive a notice of foreclosure may help you save your home. Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor who will guide you through the steps.

# **Mediation process:**

Homeowner receives notice of foreclosure filing

Homeowner contacts a HUD-approved housing counselor

Mediation conference is scheduled - notice is sent to Homeowner

Homeowner (working with counselor) submits Certificate of Participation

Homeowner (working with counselor) submits pre-mediation documents to lender and Court-appointed mediator

Homeowner appears for scheduled mediation conference



THE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION

PROGRAM requires lenders to meet with homeowners to discuss alternatives to foreclosure *before* a homeowner loses their home.

# Possible alternatives to foreclosure include:

#### **HOMEOWNER REMAINS IN THE HOME:**

Loan Modification: An agreement to permanently change one or more of the terms of the mortgage contract to make payments more manageable.

<u>Loan Repayment</u>: The lender gives the homeowner a fixed amount of time to repay the amount they are behind by adding a portion of what is past due to their regular payments.

<u>Forbearance Agreement</u>: Mortgage payments are reduced or suspended for a period of time. At the end of that time, the

homeowner resumes their regular payments as well as a lump sum payment or additional partial payments for a period of time to bring the loan current.

#### **HOMEOWNER EXITS THE HOME:**

Short Sale: The lender allows a home to be sold for less than the amount owed on the mortgage, agreeing to forgive the shortfall between the sale price and the mortgage balance.

<u>Deed in Lieu</u>: The homeowner voluntarily transfers their property title to their lender in exchange for cancellation of the remainder of their debt.

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

# **Government Resources:**

#### State Government

#### Office of the Attorney General

820 North French Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

1-800-220-5424 or (302) 577-8600

www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/

mortgageforeclosure

#### **Delaware State Housing Authority**

18 The Green

Dover, DE 19901

1-888-363-8808 or (302) 739-4263

www.deforeclosurehelp.org

#### Federal Government

#### Federal Trade Commission

www.ftc.gov

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban

Development (HUD)

www.hud.gov

# **Making Home Affordable Program**

www.makinghomeaffordable.gov

Homeowner's HOPE Hotline (24 hours/day)

1-888-995-HOPE

# HUD-approved counseling agencies:

#### CCCS of Maryland & Delaware

Delaware.....(866) 731-8486

#### First State Community Action Agency, Inc.

Dover, DE.....(302) 674–1355 Georgetown, DE ....(302) 856–7761 New Castle, DE....(302) 498–0454

www.firststatecaa.org

#### **Hockessin Community Center**

Hockessin, DE.....(302) 239-2363

#### Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc.

Wilmington, DE .....(302) 429-0794

www.hond.org

#### Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware

Dover, DE (Kent and Sussex).....(302) 741–0142 Wilmington, DE.....(302) 652–3991

www.ichde.org

# NCALL Research, Inc.

Dover, DE......(302) 678–9400 Newark, DE.....(302) 283–7505 Georgetown, DE.....(302) 855–1370

www.ncall.org

## Neighborhood House, Inc.

Middletown, DE .....(302) 378-7217

Wilmington, DE .....(302) 652-3982

# www.neighborhoodhse.org

# West End Neighborhood House, Inc.

Wilmington, DE ......(302) 658–4171

www.westendnh.org

#### **YWCA Delaware**

Newark, DE.....(302) 224-4060

www.ywcade.org